



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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CAMPAIGN 2000: THE RUN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE.

Editor's note: This week **Calpeek** will focus on Green Party presidential nominee Ralph Nader and how he's doing in Calif. Here's our update, analysis & commentary...

...The current polling shows Nader with anywhere from 3-5% in Calif. and 2-4% nationwide. In the S.F. Examiner-KTVU-TV survey, taken Sept. 17-20 among 820 likely Calif. voters, Nader was at 5%, a drop of 3-pts. from July. Demo VP Al Gore leads Texas Gov. George W. Bush(R) by 12 pts. in this same poll. And in a Rasmussen Research poll on Calif., Nader is at 4%...

...Most Demo sources contacted by **Calpeek** feel that by election day Nader will be at around 2% in Calif. and probably about the same nationwide. Thus at present Nader is a **not** factor in Calif., but he has put Oregon and Washington in play – and both are key West Coast states for Gore...

...So what is it about Ralph Nader which gives him higher numbers than other 3rd party candidates, such as Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party? He's a *household word* when it comes to consumer issues and fighting against *corporate America*. He ran an "unserious" campaign for the White House in 1996, but sources think that experience caused him to re-think his political future and hook up with the Greens...

...Nader's running on a platform which is: anti-NAFTA, anti-GATT, anti-nuclear power, pro-union, pro-livable wage, pro-universal healthcare and pro-decriminalization of drugs. Nader is drawing big crowds at rallies (8,000 at a recent Seattle rally) and his message is perfect for the Green Party and liberals who won't vote for Gore...

...And as long as he wasn't beating up on Gore, the Demos had no real problem with Nader. All that changed in last few months, as Nader began to repeat the line that there are *no important issue differences* between Gore and Bush. That one statement has infuriated Demos, who are beginning to hit back at Nader...

... "Just because he's Ralph Nader, there are no free rides,"

says Bob Mulholland, political advisor to the CA Demo Party. And as Mulholland notes, "Nader runs on public disclosure for others, but he still refuses to release his tax returns. What's he hiding?" Nader did disclose that his net worth is about \$3.8 million and that he owns some high tech stocks – but no tax returns. There are anti-Nader websites which don't paint a very nice picture of this man...

...Mulholland told **Calpeek** that at some point Demos will make the appropriate response to Nader. Some of that response occurred on July 21st when U.S. Rep. Barney Frank of MA sent Nader a letter – responding to Nader's "no differences between Gore and Bush" statement. Frank bashed Nader for being MIA on choice/abortion and in the battle for civil rights for gays & lesbians. At one point, Nader referred to the battle that gays are fighting as "gonadal politics." That remark didn't go over well with Frank, for obvious reasons, and he pointed this out to Nader in his July 21st letter. Other libs in support of the Gore/Lieberman ticket are just now beginning to follow Frank's lead. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: PROPOSITION 34 SUPPORTERS & OPPONENTS HAVING A TOUGH TIME RAISING FUNDS

Editor's note: This isn't a shocker, but both the YES on 34 and the NO on 34 side in this battle over campaign finance reform are *starved* for campaign contributions. Here's our update & analysis, with the latest polling data...

...The polling first. This one is from pollster Mervin Field. This survey was taken Aug. 18-22, among 416 likely voters. It shows 50% YES vs. 23% NO, with 27% undecided. Not a very comfortable margin for the YES side, given the nature of the opposition, which includes Calif. Common Cause and the League of Women Voters...

...But the big problem is that the NO side (*Californians Against Phony Reform – NO on 34*) doesn't have any money and its prospects for getting a substantial amount aren't promising, unless some *big pocketed angel* comes along and drops a cool \$1 million into their warchest. Some sources on the NO side say that with \$1 million, Prop. 34

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can be defeated by a 60/40 margin. Without the money, these same sources say Prop. 34 will probably pass by a 55/45 margin. The one thing NO on 34 has going for it are the newspaper editorials. Thus far two major dailies have come out opposed to 34: S.F. Chronicle and the San Diego Union-Tribune. The U-T's Sept. 27th editorial blasted 34, saying the measure was designed to aid incumbents and its passage would add to soft-money campaign abuses. Not good news for the YES on 34 side if more newspapers join the bandwagon...

...As for the YES side (*Citizens for Constitutional Campaign Reform*), they're not much better off than the opponents. Even though campaign reform ranks high on the voters' wish list, there's no group or special interest with big bucks who want to help fund this initiative, which the YES side claims is realistic reform – one which will withstand a legal challenge in the courts, unlike Prop. 208, whose limits on contributions and spending were so low that they are totally unrealistic, given what it costs to run a campaign...

...One area where YES on 34 may get some help is from the campaign consultants who promote slates. Even though Prop. 34 takes a slap at slates with some new restrictions, sources say the slate makers can live with these provisions. One slate maker told **Calpeek** that several slates will go YES and others are leaning in that direction...

...FYI: In case you haven't heard, U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) has endorsed YES on 34. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON KEY ASSEMBLY RACES.

Editor's note: With the Demos awash in money at both the State Senate and State Assembly levels, it's not likely the GOP is going to pick up many seats. Our last update on the Assembly (8/14/00) showed Demos ahead of Republicans by a margin of 6-to-1 in money and holding a 46 to 32 margin in seats, with 1 seat held by independent Audie Bock of Oakland and 1 vacancy – the 61st AD. Here's our update & analysis...

...According to our **Calpeek** sources, at present there are 34 safe Demo seat vs. 23 safe GOP seats...

The Watch List

...These are either OPEN seats or seat held by incumbents which need to be watched carefully. The advantage in these *watch list* races belongs to the incumbent or to the party who currently holds the seat. From the old list, we continue with: 10th AD (Pescetti-R vs. Gravert-D), 69th AD (Correa-D vs. Lopez-R) and 78th AD (Wayne-D vs. Steel-R). *Remove*

from the *Watch List* to safe R the following: Kelley(R-80th AD), Harman(R-67th AD) and Daucher(R-72nd AD)...

The Battle Zone

...*Remove* from the *Battle Zone* to safe D: Reyes - 31st AD. Incumbents are underlined. Here are the rest of the *Battle Zone* contests:

16 th AD	<u>Bock-I</u> vs. <u>Chan-D</u> . Leans D
17 th AD Open	<u>Aghazarian-R</u> vs. <u>Matthews-D</u> . Leans R
24 th AD Open	<u>Jackson-R</u> vs. <u>Cohn-D</u> . <u>Toss Up</u>
28 th AD Open	<u>Denham-R</u> vs. <u>Salinas-D</u> . <u>Toss Up</u>
30 th AD	<u>Flores-D</u> vs. <u>Kay-R</u> . Leans D
35 th AD	<u>Jackson-D</u> vs. <u>Sullivan-R</u> . Leans D
37 th AD	<u>Strickland-R</u> vs. <u>McGrath-D</u> . Leans R
41 st AD Open	<u>Shapiro-R</u> vs. <u>Pavley-D</u> . Leans D
43 rd AD Open	<u>Massakian-R</u> vs. <u>Frommer-D</u> . Leans D
44 th AD Open	<u>Liu-D</u> vs. <u>Carpenter-McMillan-R</u> . Leans D
53 rd AD	<u>Nakano-D</u> vs. <u>Feldando-R</u> . Leans D
54 th AD	<u>Lowenthal-D</u> vs. <u>Svorinich-R</u> . <u>Toss Up</u>
56 th AD	<u>Havice-D</u> vs. <u>Hu-R</u> . Leans D
61 st AD Open	<u>Yates-R</u> vs. <u>McLeod-D</u> . <u>Toss Up</u>
76 th AD Open	<u>Kehoe-D</u> vs. <u>Nash-Hoff-R</u> . Leans D
77 th AD Open	<u>La Suer-R</u> vs. <u>Keegan-D</u> . Leans R

...FYI: in the 16th AD, Demos are confident that Alameda Co. Sup. Wilma Chan will take back this seat and they regard the 16th AD as safe. Demo polling by David Binder Research, Aug. 12-13, 400 likely voters, shows Chan with a 35% to 17% lead over Bock. However, a new poll for Bock taken Sept. 22-24 among 350 registered voters by R.T. Nielson Co. shows Bock leading Chan: 45.7% to 22.3%, with 23.4% undecided and other candidates getting 8.6%. The Demos are very dismissive of this Bock poll. In the 37th AD, **Calpeek** has added the GOP Assemblyman Tony Strickland to the Battle Zone list because he is now a Demo target. And in the Open 43rd AD, we have moved this contest to lean D. Demo VP Al Gore holds a 17 point lead in the 43rd AD. Adding all safe + lean seats, it's now 46 Demo vs. 30 GOP, with 4 toss ups. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS

Oct. 3	Presidential Debate – Boston, MA.
Oct. 5	Vice Presidential Debate – Danville, KY.
Oct. 10	Last day to register to vote.
Oct. 11	Presidential Debate, St. Louis, MO.
Oct. 17	Presidential Debate, Winston-Salem, NC.
Oct. 19	L.A. Co. DA's Debate, KCAL-TV.
Oct. 20	VICA Candidates' Forum, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA.
Oct. 31	Last day to apply for absentee ballot.

CAMPAIGN 2000: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.

Editor's note: Here's yet another update about some of the key initiatives appearing on the Nov. 7th ballot. This week we have some polling data. These numbers were from a KCRA, KTVU and S.F. Examiner poll taken Sept. 17-20 among 820 likely voters statewide...

● **Prop. 36 Update** – This is the **drug treatment** measure which if approved would see 1st time/non-violent drug users put in drug rehab programs and not in prison. The new poll shows 56% in favor vs. 26% opposed. FYI: there was an interim hearing in Sacto last week, where both side made presentations. The most interesting testimony came from **former drug addicts** who said repeatedly that a treatment program without testing and sanctions is a *waste*. Although Prop. 36 provides \$120 million per year for treatment programs, the initiative specifically bans using this money for testing...

◆ **Prop. 38 Update** – This is the **School Voucher** initiative backed by Silicon Valley venture capitalist Tim Draper. The new poll is very close to the previously published poll by the Public Policy Inst. of Calif. This new poll shows the NO side with 51% vs. 35% for the YES side. The PPIC survey showed YES 37, NO 53%. FYI: the new YES on 38 are running on tv and as predicted by **Calpeek** two weeks ago, the tone of these new ads is *very negative*. The target of these ads is CA Gov. Gray Davis(D). The ad says that Davis and the teachers union are trying to block real educational reform in Calif. The ad doesn't even mention the word voucher. Garry South, sr. political advisor to Gov. Davis, said, "... As a classic poor loser, Tim Draper's obviously decided to lash out at everybody who's pointed out the deceptive and potentially destructive nature of his own brainchild, starting with the governor." South, like **Calpeek**, also thinks Draper is looking beyond 2000 to 2002...

● **Prop. 39 Update** – This is the measure which will do away with the 2/3rds vote to make it easier to pass local school bonds. Instead, local bonds will only need a 55% vote to be approved. The new poll shows 39 leading, but at just 47% vs. 36% who are opposed. The PPIC poll showed almost the same thing: 49% YES vs. 37% NO. The new tv/radio ads for YES on 39 don't mention the 55% vote at all – and that has opponents furious. The opponents keep hammering away that if 39 is approved, property taxes will skyrocket. Howard Jarvis Taxpayer Assn. president Jon Coupal said at a Sept. 26th news conference, "It's hard to believe that promoters just 'forgot' to mention that Prop. 39 dismantles the 2/3rds vote taxpayer protection..." Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: UPDATE ON U.S. HOUSE CONTESTS.

Editor's note: **Calpeek** has removed the 20th CD from our *Watch List* and moved it into the **Battle Zone**. Here's our update & analysis...

☒ **20th CD Update** – After being asleep at the switch since the primary, a rather lethargic U.S. Rep. Cal Dooley(D-Visalia) finally woke up in mid-summer to realize that GOP tv newscaster Rich Rodriguez was closing ground. And indeed a late July poll for Rodriguez showed him with a 41% to 40% lead over Dooley. Now Dooley's campaign has finally released their late August poll, which shows Dooley slightly ahead. This poll was taken Aug. 27-31, 500 likely voters, by Fairbank Maslin Maullin. It shows Dooley 45% vs. 39% for Rodriguez, with 2% for others and 14% undecided...

...FYI: Dooley's new TV ad really hit Rodriguez hard. It's called, "When Rich Rodriguez speaks, who's writing the script?" Seems that Rodriguez is somewhat *lite* on many issues. The ad quotes Rodriguez recently answering a question about education issues by saying, "My staff decides my positions on questions like that." Ugh. That quote was taken from the Lemoore Advance newspaper 8/10/00. Not too sharp. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 2000: CITY AND COUNTY INITIATIVES.

Editor's note: Here's another update on some key city and county initiatives facing voters Nov. 7th...

◆ **Measure L vs. Measure K in S.F.** – Back in 1980, S.F. voters approved Measure O, a slow growth initiative which sunsets this year. Enter some neighborhood activists with a new plan which critics say is even tougher. Measure L actually missed the deadline for making the ballot, but S.F. City Attorney Louise Renne allowed it on anyway – much to the displeasure of Mayor Willie Brown. So Mayor Willie has added a competing Measure K – it's slow growth Willie style (opponents say it's *slow growth lite*). Enter real estate magnate and Willie-hater Clint Reilly and his pal, options trader Doug Engmann, who will help bankroll "L" and oppose "K". And allied with Reilly will again be S.F. Sup. Tom Ammi-ano. Lots of money will be spent – on both sides...

◆ **Measure KK in Santa Monica** – This is the so-called *Living Wage Initiative* sponsored by the big hotels in Santa Monica. The idea behind KK to require a public vote should the very liberal-minded city council pass a living wage plan for the city. The hotels figure they have a 50-50 shot at stopping such a plan if it goes to the ballot. Lots of direct mail is being pumped out by the YES side (*Santa Monicans for a Living Wage*), including a very slick VBM(vote by

mail) piece. The YES side's campaign is being run by the L.A. office of The Dolphin Group. Sources say unless the NO side wakes up, YES on KK will win...

◆ **Measure M in San Berdu** – The City of San Bernardino, by a 4 to 3 council vote, has placed a major Charter Reform plan before voters, at the urging of popular Mayor Susan Valles. Sources say the plan has many features similar to the new charter in L.A., which gives greater powers to the mayor. One provision in Measure M calls for the appointment of the City Attorney. Naturally current City Atty. James Penman is opposed, as are some public employee groups. Consultants for YES on M are Rick Taylor & Mike Valles...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Gore Vs. Bush** – A new poll published by the *S.F. Examiner*, KTVU-TV and KCRA-TV shows Demo VP Al Gore holding a 12-pt. lead over Texas Gov. George W. Bush here in Calif. The poll was taken Sept. 17-20 among 820 likely voters. The poll has Gore leading 50% to 38%. **Calpeek** sources say that some of the private surveys (taken 9/25 by other statewide campaigns), have Gore's lead ranging from 49-51, with Bush in the 34-36 range. FYI: in the *tv wars*, GOPers have spent a combined total of about \$3.5 million on Bush tv ads in Calif. The CA Demo Party, the DNC and the Gore campaign have spent next to nothing on tv ads. However, should the race tighten up in Calif. over the next 5 weeks, our sources say there are at least two anti-Bush ads already in the can: one dealing with guns and the other one is about abortion/choice...

■ **Feinstein Vs. Campbell** – Not good news for U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell(R) as he continues to trail badly behind U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein in the same poll as above (*Examiner/KTVU/KCRA*). It's DiFi 53% vs. 36% for Campbell. The private polling is similar: DiFi 53% vs. 32% for Campbell. Either way Campbell is *toast*...

■ **Woo Can Run for L.A. Council** – A CA Appeals Court ruled last week that former L.A. Councilman Mike Woo can run once again for the council in 2001. The court ruled that the new L.A. City Charter did not intend to change the existing term limits law. A big win for Woo, who plans to seek his old 13th Council District seat in 2001. And a big win for legal counsel, Strumwasser & Woocher...

■ **AAPC Calif. Chapter** – Listen up political consultants based in Calif. A Calif. Chapter of the American

Assn. of Political Consultants is being formed. For info, contact Mitchell Englander at the MWW Group in L.A. (213)486-6560 or email menglander@mww.com...

CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A correction from last week: former State Treasurer Kathleen Brown has NOT moved to Idaho with husband Van Gordon Sauter. They just took a long vacation at their home in Idaho...

● Gov. Davis has named 69-year-old Norma Turner as general counsel to the Agriculture Labor Relations Board. She has been serving as ALRB board counsel since '75...

● L.A.-based Cerrell Associates has added 5 new staffers. They include Anita Sauders as director of special events; AE Victoria Jancek; asst. AE Dan Rawlins; and account coords. Katy Baucum and Karen Moran...

● Gov. Davis has appointed 4 members to the CA Gambling Commission. They are John E. Hensley; Michael C. Palmer; Ms. J.K. Sasaki; and former S.F. DA Arlo Smith...

● Nicole Mahrt has been hired as director of public affairs for the Amer. Insurance Assn.'s western region...

● San Diego businessman Phil Blair has been appointed to the San Diego City Council, replacing 5th District Councilwoman Barbara Warden, who resigned in August...

● 3-term Beverly Hills Mayor Vicki Reynolds won't seek a 4th term next year...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

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